

September 8, 2004

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

City of Arcata  
South I Street - Wetland Enhancement Project  
(WDID No. 1B04082WNHU)

Humboldt County

On June 28, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Julie Neander on behalf of the City of Arcata (hereinafter applicant), requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for a project to restore and improve the wetland and value of wetland habitat on property acquired by the City of Arcata with a United States Fish and Wildlife Service Small Wetlands Grant. The application was deemed complete on August 9, 2004, upon submittal of a Notice of Determination demonstrating compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with McDaniel Slough and unnamed drainages in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The proposed project is located on the west side of South "I" Street in Arcata. The primary purpose of this project is to enhance the existing wetland habitat and restore wetland habitat on the property. The property is currently undeveloped land; however, in the past the property was a former long pond and most recently was used for an organic composting operation. The City of Arcata proposes to excavate the site to remove imported fill, create a two-acre wetland pond, and revegetate the site with native upland and wetland plants.

The proposed project involves the use of an excavator and crawler tractor to excavate a freshwater wetland pond on two acres of the 3-acre parcel. The project will permanently impact approximately one acre of jurisdictional Waters of the State to create two acres of pond and wetland habitat. The project will result in a net increase in wetland habitat of approximately one acre. The enhanced wetland area will be managed as part of the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Grading and construction work is scheduled to begin in September 2004 and will take approximately three weeks to complete. The perimeter of the pond, the island, and upland areas will be replanted with native trees and shrubs during the winter of 2004/2005. Bare soil will be seeded with native grass and covered with mulch. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control, grading during the dry season, and measures to prevent compaction of wetland soil.

The applicant has applied for authorization to perform the proposed project under Nationwide Permit No. 27 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. The City of Arcata, as the lead CEQA agency, determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment and adopted a Mitigated Negative

Declaration (SCH#2004072014) on August 5, 2004. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Agreement) from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is not required for this project.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Dean Prat by phone at (707) 576-2801, or e-mail [pratd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:pratd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

DLP:js/090804\_arcatawetlandpubnot082504